

Draft
Environmental Assessment
Proposed Antrim Addition to
Threemile Wildlife Management Area

February 2016



***Montana Fish,
Wildlife & Parks***

*Region 2 Office
3201 Spurgin Road, Missoula, MT 59804
Phone 406-542-5500*

1.0 PURPOSE OF AND NEED FOR ACTION

1.1 Proposed Action and Need

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks (FWP) proposes to accept the donation of fee-title ownership of approximately 214.8 acres (hereafter rounded to 215 acres) of land (in 3 parcels, hereafter the Antrim Addition) adjoining Threemile Wildlife Management Area (WMA) in Ravalli County, northeast of Stevensville. The majority of Threemile WMA was purchased by FWP for elk winter range in 1967 and 1968 and currently consists of 6,169 acres. The proposed Antrim Addition shares approximately 1 mile of common boundary with the WMA and 0.9 miles of common boundary with two United States Forest Service (USFS, Bitterroot National Forest) parcels adjacent to the WMA (Figures 1 and 2). This donation has been generously offered as a bequest in the last will and testament of Ms. Priscilla Antrim, the late owner of the property who passed away in August 2015.

The Antrim Addition contains a portion of USFS road 640 (Threemile Creek Road), which traverses southeasterly across the property before continuing southeast across a small USFS parcel, then the northern end of the WMA and again onto USFS land. Aside from the road, there are no other improvements on the property. The USFS maintains road 640 on and adjacent to the WMA, although the section in the Antrim Addition falls under county jurisdiction for severe road damage. The property contains open grassland, timber, and riparian habitat, including approximately 0.4 mile of Threemile Creek and 0.8 mile of a small unnamed side channel of Threemile Creek. The primary benefits of acquiring this property would be to prevent future subdivision and/or development on elk winter range and to offer additional public access to the WMA. The property would be open to nonmotorized access, subject to the same regulations currently in effect across all of Threemile WMA.

1.2 Objectives of the Proposed Action

- To prevent future subdivision and/or development or other activities that would displace elk from their winter range,
- To enhance riparian habitat along Threemile Creek, and
- To improve public access.

1.3 Location

Threemile WMA and the Antrim Addition lie approximately 16 miles east of Florence along Threemile Creek Road, in Ravalli County, Montana (Figures 1 and 2).

Legal Description and Map (Figure 2) of Antrim Addition:

Township 10 North, Range 18 West, Ravalli County, MT

Section 17: S2SW4 and S2SE4;

Section 18: E2SE4SE4;

Section 20: NE4NE4

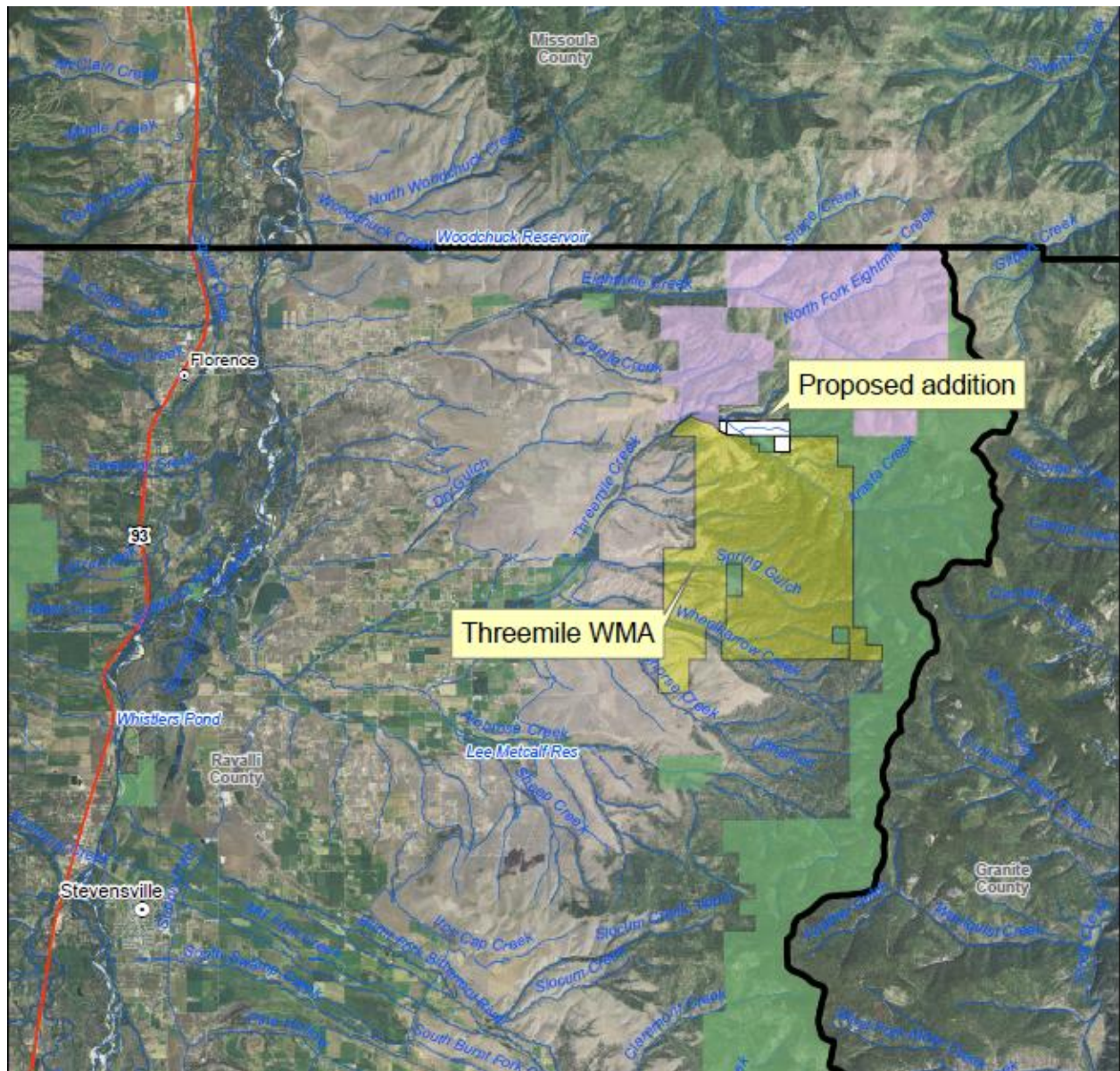


Figure 1. General location of Threemile WMA (yellow shaded portions) and the proposed Antrim Addition (white portions). Areas shaded in purple represent Plum Creek Timber Company ownership, and areas shaded in green represent National Forest. (Shading is only used on those portions of the map that are in Ravalli County.)

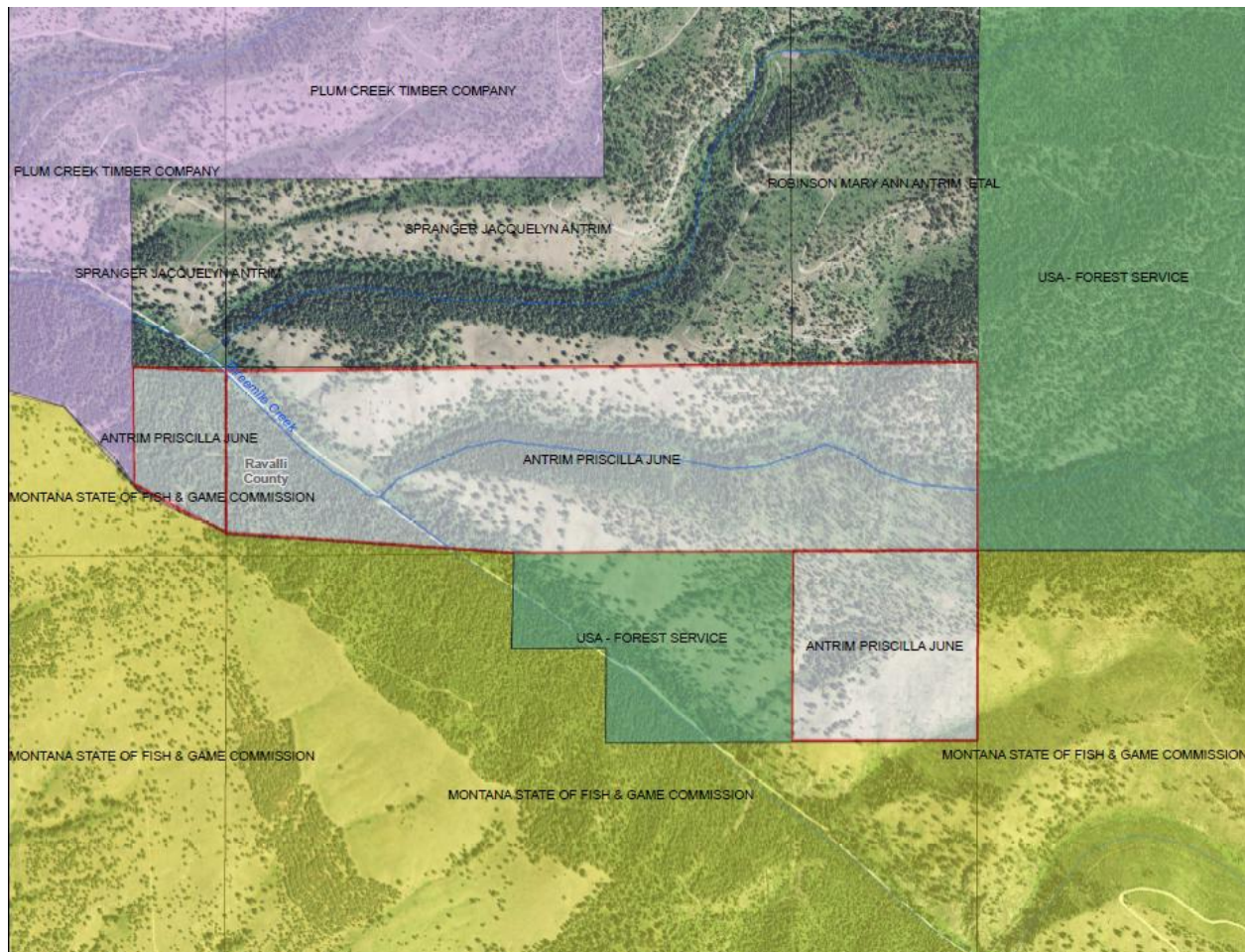


Figure 2. Zoomed-in view of the proposed Antrim Addition (white shading) and adjacent Threemile WMA (yellow), Plum Creek Timber Company (purple), and Forest Service (green) lands.

1.4 Authority and Responsibility

FWP has the authority to purchase lands that are suitable for game, bird, fish or fur-bearing animal restoration, propagation or protection; for public hunting, fishing, or trapping areas; and for state parks and outdoor recreation, per Montana statute Section 87-1-209, Montana Code Annotated (MCA).

Funds from license sales and other sources are used for weed management, fence installation or repair of existing fences, erosion control, streambank stabilization, erection of barriers to preserve riparian vegetation and habitat, and management of native trees, grasses and shrubs for habitat enhancement.

2.0 ALTERNATIVES

2.1 Alternative A – Proposed Action: FWP would accept the donation of approximately 215 acres via fee title

FWP proposes to accept the donation of fee-title ownership of the Antrim Addition adjoining Threemile WMA in Ravalli County, northeast of Stevensville. The proposed Antrim Addition

shares 1 mile of common boundary with the WMA and 0.9 miles of common boundary with two USFS parcels adjacent to the WMA (Figures 1 and 2). This donation is offered according to the last will and testament of Ms. Priscilla Antrim, the late owner of the subject property, with the intent that the gift be accomplished by early 2016.

The existence of Threemile Creek Road (USFS Road 640) makes the Antrim Addition potentially desirable for development, although the rugged terrain and steep hillsides may deter potential developers. However, the flat ground along the Threemile Creek and its unnamed side channel could draw potential development interest (e.g., Figure 6). The primary benefits of acquiring this property would be to provide for elk winter range and to protect that habitat from possible future subdivision and/or development, as well as offering improved public access.

FWP would manage the property in accordance with the existing Management Plan for Threemile WMA (available upon request). The WMA is currently open annually for public access from noon May 15 through December 1, and closed from December 2 until noon May 15 to provide undisturbed winter range for elk and other wildlife. The exception is that the area north of, and including, USFS Road 640 in the northeastern WMA is open to nonmotorized public access year-round. However, the entire WMA is closed to hunting, fishing and trapping from December 2 until noon May 15. In this year-round portion of the WMA, motorized travel is allowed only on open roads (USFS Roads 640 and 1344). The Antrim property would be subject to the same use regulations as for Threemile WMA. Therefore, if added to the WMA, an estimated 170 acres of the 215-acre Antrim Addition would fall under the “open year-round designation,” with the remaining 45 acres subject to the winter closure. (See Appendix A for a summary of the current public use rules for Threemile WMA.)

FWP currently maintains the fence between the two properties, but would likely move that fence to the new boundary upon acquisition.

2.2 Alternative B – No Action: FWP would not accept the donation of 215 acres

Under the No Action Alternative, FWP would not accept the Antrim Addition bequest. Under the terms of the Ms. Antrim’s will, the bequest would lapse and the property distributed to her main heirs. FWP cannot know if the heirs would keep the property themselves or rent or sell it, but under private ownership or sale (likely to a private party), subdivision and/or development would be more likely than under the proposed action. Future public access to the property would be at the discretion of private owners.

2.3 Alternative Considered but Eliminated from Further Analysis: FWP purchasing a Conservation Easement

This alternative was eliminated from further consideration as Ms. Antrim’s bequest specifies donating fee-title to the land to FWP, not a conservation easement.

3.0 AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT AND PREDICTED CONSEQUENCES

3.1 Land Use

Looking at the Montana Department of Natural Resources & Conservation’s (DNRC) water rights query, the two water rights we found associated with the Antrim Addition parcels are for

the purpose of stock (livestock) use only. An affidavit included with one of those water rights (76H 149827-00, priority date 1930) indicates that Stanley Antrim (Priscilla's father) purchased the land from the Anaconda Copper Mining Company (ACMC) in 1948 and beginning that year grazed 1200 ewe sheep with lambs on the property, watering them on Threemile Creek and its tributaries. It also indicates that prior to that, from about 1930, Ed Reed leased the land from ACMC and grazed 300 head of cattle. We do not know when livestock grazing was last discontinued on the property. Cattle have frequently escaped onto the property from neighboring leases. Aside from the road, there are no other improvements on the property. Due to the severity of slopes and difficulty of access, large-scale timber sales are likely not feasible on the property, although hand-thinning and prescribed burning could potentially be used if deemed appropriate to benefit wildlife habitat, wildfire prevention and forest health.

Mineral rights, if any, have been willed to Ms. Antrim's heirs. A minerals remoteness evaluation has been commissioned to determine the likelihood of potential mineral development on this property at some later time.



Figure 3. Cattle guard and fence line separating Antrim land from Threemile WMA on USFS Road 640.

Proposed Action: FWP would add the Antrim Addition to Threemile WMA and manage it as it currently manages the rest of the WMA: most would be open to public access year-round, with a smaller portion annually open from noon May 15 through December 1 for public access (see section 2.1, paragraph 3 for details).

Any mineral interests attached to the Antrim property have been willed to Ms. Antrim's heirs. Final determination of those interests is pending. Water rights attached to the project property would be transferred to FWP.

In earlier years, FWP leased northern parts of the WMA for grazing. Although leasing this WMA for livestock grazing is not contemplated, if it were to occur it would have to follow a grazing plan specifically developed for the unique environmental conditions and requirements of the WMA. Such a plan would also determine whether or not (portions of) the Antrim Addition would be included in WMA lands to be leased, and it would be reviewed by a public comment process prior to leasing.

FWP would install appropriate informational signage at the property boundary to communicate property boundaries, FWP regulations, and general site information.

FWP's purchase of this property would prevent future subdivision or development of the site that could reduce wildlife habitat and limit public access to and through the property.

No Action: Under the No Action Alternative, FWP would not accept fee title to the Antrim Addition. FWP cannot know if the heirs would keep the property themselves or rent or sell it, but under private ownership, grazing or subdivision and/or development would be more likely as land use than under the proposed action. Such actions would likely reduce the value of the land as elk winter range and wildlife habitat. Future public access to the property would be at the discretion of private owners.

3.2 Vegetation

The Antrim Addition is primarily composed of steeply sloping, forested hills on either side of an unnamed draw and a small section of Threemile Creek. Vegetation is comprised of native and non-native species, including bluebunch wheatgrass, ninebark, ponderosa pine, and spotted knapweed on south-facing slopes, and mixed conifer species (including western larch) with dense shrub undergrowth on north-facing slopes and in creek drainages.

Proposed Action: Succession of native grasses would continue toward a climax condition under FWP management, which would be expected to increase amounts of bluebunch wheatgrass (a preferred, elk winter forage). FWP would consider the use of hand-thinning or prescribed burning to manage pine savannas and heavily timbered slopes in order to benefit elk winter range and wildlife habitat.

FWP would complete a vegetation assessment and a weed inspection per § 7-22-2154(1), MCA, which requires nonfederal government agencies to obtain a weed inspection by the county weed management district and requires the development of a weed management plan to ensure compliance with district noxious weed management programs. Through implementation of FWP's 2008 *Statewide Integrated Noxious Weed Management Plan*¹, FWP would comply with

¹ Document available from this webpage <http://fwp.mt.gov/fishAndWildlife/habitat/noxiousWeeds/default.html> (accessed 5 Feb 2016)

district programs and develop the property's weed management plan in the spring of 2016. A draft plan is presented in Appendix B.

FWP anticipates a decrease in noxious weeds and an improvement in overall habitat health over time after the Plan's implementation. Following this plan, FWP would actively treat weeds through the use of herbicides and biological control agents.



Figure 4. South-facing, steep slopes comprised of grassland and ponderosa pine savanna. Spotted knapweed is pervasive on these slopes.



Figure 5. Left: Unnamed draw with western larch and mixed conifers. Right: View southeast across grassy slope showing north-facing, heavily timbered habitat adjacent to existing Threemile WMA. Threemile Creek runs along the bottom.

No Action: If FWP does not purchase the property, it is difficult to predict how new ownership would affect existing vegetation and wildlife habitat resources since future landowner activities are unknown.

3.3 Wildlife Species

Threemile WMA is winter range for 100-200 elk that also potentially use the proposed Antrim Addition. White-tailed deer occur year-round. Black bear, cougar and coyote round out the common occurrences of large mammals. Wolves may also occasionally use the WMA. Game birds include mountain grouse and occasional wild turkeys, ring-necked pheasants, and Hungarian partridge.

Small mammal, amphibian, and reptile trapping was done on the Threemile WMA in 2006. During the survey, biologists also recorded bird and other species observed. Total number of species trapped or observed included: 40 birds, 3 amphibians, 1 reptile, 1 bat, 3 shrews, 8 rodents, 3 mesocarnivores (striped skunk, mink, and raccoon), 2 lagomorphs (mountain cottontail and snowshoe hare), and 1 black bear. Moose and mule deer were also observed.

The proposed Antrim Addition to the WMA, with its diverse habitat of pine savanna, grassland, and mixed-conifer forest, would provide additional habitat for most, if not all, of these species, as well as several Montana Species of Concern² (SOC). Terrestrial SOC and Potential Species of Concern (PSOC) observed during the 2006 survey include the western toad, Idaho pocket gopher, bobolink, great gray owl, and Clark's nutcracker. Additionally, biologists have since observed pileated woodpeckers on the WMA, and pileated woodpecker and northern goshawk were observed on the single stop along the Threemile Breeding Bird Survey route that lands on the property. Other SOC or PSOC that use similar habitat in the Bitterroot Valley include Townsend's big-eared bat, little brown bat, hoary bat, silver-haired bat, fringed myotis, Preble's shrew, Brewer's sparrow, golden eagle, and common poorwill.

Proposed Action: FWP acquiring the Antrim Addition would conserve its existing contribution to the larger landscape of wildlife habitat represented by Threemile WMA.

No Action: If FWP does not accept donation of the property, the possibility would exist for the parcels to be sold, subdivided and/or developed in the future, and the wildlife habitat provided by this property could be compromised or lost. The existence of water and a maintained road make this property desirable for development.

3.4 Fisheries and Aquatic Resources

Threemile Creek in the vicinity of the Antrim Addition supports a population of genetically pure westslope cutthroat trout (*Oncorhynchus clarki lewisi*) and brook trout (*Salvelinus fontinalis*). Westslope cutthroat (a SOC) are abundant and brook trout are less common. Both species grow to a length of about 9 inches. No other species of fish have been observed, but tailed frog tadpoles are also common. FWP does not have information about fish species potentially in the tributaries of Threemile Creek in this area.

² A native animal breeding in Montana that is considered to be "at risk" due to declining population trends, threats to its habitats, and/or restricted distribution. The purpose of Montana's SOC listing is to highlight species in decline and encourage conservation efforts to reverse population declines and prevent the need for future listing as Threatened or Endangered Species under the Federal Endangered Species Act.

Proposed Action: FWP acquiring the Antrim Addition would conserve the fisheries in the 0.4-mile stretch of Threemile Creek included in the addition, as well as protect the riparian habitat of Threemile Creek and its unnamed side channel.

No Action: If FWP does not accept donation of the property, the possibility would exist for the parcels to be sold, subdivided and/or developed in the future, and the fisheries and the riparian habitat provided by this property could be compromised or diminished. The existence of water and a maintained road make this property desirable for development, and the existence of stock water rights could make the land useful for livestock grazing and use of the creek.

3.5 Aesthetics and Recreation Opportunities

Recreationists have motorized access to the WMA by several roads throughout the property, but may not drive off-road. However, the operation of any motorized vehicles 50 inches or less in width is prohibited on the WMA; this includes (but is not limited to) 2-, 3- and 4-wheeled ATVs, motorcycles, trail bikes and snowmobiles. The WMA's main entrance is about 1½ miles southwest of the southwestern corner of the Antrim Addition, but the WMA may be accessed by USFS Road 640, which also passes for about 0.4 mile through the addition (although no parking areas exist, and users must hike off road to access the WMA).

Threemile WMA supports significant public hunting for elk and white-tailed deer. The WMA attracts high levels of hunter access during the fall upland game bird and big game hunting seasons, as well as shed (antler) hunters when the WMA opens in the spring. Lion hunters may be seen using the WMA to train hounds. Hikers and runners round out the major recreational users of the WMA during spring, summer and fall.



Figure 6. Left: Western property boundary along USFS Road 640. Right: View of the small unnamed side drainage from Threemile Creek bottom and Road 640.

Proposed Action: Under the proposed action, public access and recreational opportunities would be gained and enhanced. Public access and recreation upon the proposed

Antrim Addition would be allowed under the rules and regulations governing public use on the adjoining WMA (Appendix A).

As with existing portions of the WMA further down FS Road 640, the public would be able to access the Antrim Addition from this road. There are no designated parking areas along this road for WMA access, and users would be responsible for parking vehicles in such a manner as to not obstruct traffic. The public would be required to remain on the road where it crosses private property between Plum Creek Timber Company land and Threemile WMA.

No Action: If the Antrim Addition donation is not accepted, public access to that parcel would remain at the discretion of the private landowner. The possibility exists for future owners to develop the property and deliver additional traffic on FS Road 640, increasing the potential for conflicts with WMA users and further impacting wildlife habitat.

3.6 Cultural and Historical Resources

FWP is unaware of any specific cultural or historic sites on the Antrim Addition, and does not propose to introduce land uses that would be expected to diminish or destroy cultural resources.

Per § 22-3-433, MCA, all state agencies are required to consult with the Montana State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) on the identification and location of heritage properties on lands owned by the state that may be adversely impacted by a proposed action. FWP will instigate that consultation with this EA.

Proposed Action: FWP's proposed acquisition would not directly affect any known cultural or historical resources, since the proposed action at this time is acquisition, which involves no disturbance or alteration to land. If future ground disturbing actions were to be planned for the addition (e.g., timber harvest), FWP would then contact SHPO for guidance or possible site investigation. Likewise, if cultural or historic resources were to be discovered (i.e., during fencing activities to physically incorporate the acquisition into the WMA), FWP would cease work and SHPO would be contacted for a more in-depth investigation.

No Action: If FWP does not accept the donation of this property, then potential private development of this property, which could lead to increased soil disturbance or possibly diminish any cultural or historic resources, would be dependent on the actions of the new owner.

3.7 Community and Taxes

FWP is required by § 87-1-603, MCA, to pay "to the county a sum equal to the amount of taxes which would be payable on county assessment of the property if it was taxable to a private citizen." The current land summary for this addition indicates that 41.422 acres are categorized as grazing land and 158.578 acres as forest land.

The public recreation provided on the proposed 215-acre addition to the WMA would benefit WMA and nearby USFS land users. This recreation might introduce more public activity near neighboring properties.

Proposed Action: FWP would pay fees to Ravalli County in the amount that would be paid by a private landowner.

The increased public access provided on the 215-acre parcel would benefit the public primarily as a matter of convenience, offering more WMA and National Forest land accessible from USFS Road 640. The addition is not expected to attract broadly expanded public recreation to the vicinity of the addition; most traffic to the WMA occurs on the main entrance road. Also, the access afforded by this addition is expected to mostly enhance current use of the WMA and nearby USFS properties; this addition is not expected to attract new or significant increases in visitation and use to Threemile WMA. The remaining landowner between Plum Creek Timber Company and the WMA may notice a minor increase in recreationists near their property lines. FWP would work with this landowner by providing signage to help the public avoid trespassing.

No Action: If FWP does not accept the donation and the property were to be sold and/or developed, tax revenues paid to the County could be higher than current levels. However, county expenditures for providing services to development on this relatively isolated parcel could be higher as well. Predicting future use of the property and overall tax and community consequences if owned by another party(s) is difficult to assess.

If the property were sold and developed, human activity around neighboring properties would increase, and the existing viewshed would be compromised.

4.0 RESOURCE ISSUES CONSIDERED BUT ELIMINATED FROM DETAILED ANALYSIS

The Montana Environmental Policy Act (MEPA) provides for the identification and elimination from detailed study of issues that are not significant or which have been covered by a prior environmental review, narrowing the discussion of these issues to a brief presentation of why they would not have a significant effect on the physical or human environment or providing a reference to their coverage elsewhere (Administrative Rules of Montana 12.2.434(d)). While these resources are important, they were either unaffected or mildly affected by the proposed action, or the effects could be adequately mitigated.

A few issues were found not to be significant to the decision and were eliminated from further detailed analysis.

4.1 Soils

The subject property does not contain prime and unique or important farmlands, and FWP generally would not disturb native vegetation or soils other than for boundary fencing maintenance.

4.2 Air Quality

Under either alternative, there are unlikely to be changes to the ambient air quality since neither FWP nor the current landowner plan any construction or development activities that could affect particulate levels and air quality.

4.3 Noise and Electrical Effects

FWP foresees a low likelihood that noise levels would increase under either alternative because neither FWP nor most private landowners would be served by activities that introduce significant noise in this location.

Existing electrical structures and easements would not be affected by either alternative.

4.4 Risk and Health Hazards

As part of FWP's due diligence, the Department has ordered a hazardous materials survey, which would be completed prior to the property's acquisition. No hazardous materials are known to occur on the parcel at this time.

4.5 Cumulative Impacts

Proposed Action: FWP's acceptance of the Antrim donation would maintain and eventually enhance the existing habitat and open space that the property has contributed historically. Public access to this property would enhance the existing recreational experience on Threemile WMA by providing additional acreage accessible from USFS Rd 640. These contributions would offset a minor portion of the cumulative loss of habitat and public access that has occurred and continues in Ravalli County and across the West.

No Action: If no action were taken, the Antrim parcel might someday be sold, subdivided and/or developed. The existence of water and a maintained public road make this property potentially desirable for development. The effects of human disturbances associated with development could spill over onto the adjacent WMA in terms of wildlife displacement. The cumulative impact of such development would be minor on a landscape scale, due to the small size of the parcel and the existing buffer of Threemile WMA and the adjoining Bitterroot National Forest.

The greatest degree of cumulative impact would be felt by FWP as an agency if the 215-acre parcel were subdivided and developed. Each development around the borders of a WMA adds the potential for numerous residential contacts and occasional or chronic conflicts--for instance from bears getting into human placed attractants such as bird feeders and improperly stored garbage--which consume the limited FWP time, staff and monies available to address such added issues. The possible future development of this 215 acres would be expected to add a moderate cumulative impact to FWP's Habitat Montana Program, and detract from FWP's ability to manage critical wildlife habitat in west-central Montana.

5.0 NEED FOR AN ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

Based on the significance criteria evaluated in this EA, is an EIS required? No. Based upon the above assessment, which has identified a limited number of minor impacts from the proposed acquisition and subsequent management of the property by FWP, an EIS is not required, and an environmental assessment is the appropriate level of review.

6.0 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

6.1 Public Involvement

The public will be notified in the following manners about the opportunity to comment on this current EA, the proposed action and alternative:

- Legal notice will be published twice each in these newspapers: *Bitterroot Star* (Stevensville), *Independent Record* (Helena), *Missoulian*, and *Ravalli Republic* (Hamilton).
- Public notice will be posted on FWP's webpage: <http://fwp.mt.gov> ("Public Notices"); the Draft EA will also be available on this webpage, along with the opportunity to submit comments online.
- A news release will be prepared and distributed to a standard list of media outlets interested in FWP Region 2 issues; this news release will also be posted on FWP's website <http://fwp.mt.gov> ("News," then "News Releases").
- Direct mailing or email notification to adjacent landowners and other interested parties (individuals, groups, agencies).
- A public hearing to explain the project, answer questions and take public comment will be held in Corvallis on February 18 (Thursday) at 6:30 p.m. at the Teller Wildlife Refuge's Slack Barn at 1180 Chaffin Lane (1 mile north of Corvallis on the Eastside Highway, turn west onto Quast Lane and go 0.3 mile, turn left/south onto Chaffin and 0.15 mile ahead is the driveway).

Copies of this draft EA may be obtained by mail from Region 2 FWP, 3201 Spurgin Rd., Missoula 59804; by phoning 406-542-5540; by emailing shrose@mt.gov; or by viewing FWP's Internet website <http://fwp.mt.gov> ("Public Notices," beginning February 8, 2016).

This level of public notice and participation is appropriate for a project of this scope with no significant physical or human impacts and only minor impacts that can be mitigated.

6.2 Offices/Programs contacted or contributing to this document:

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks:
Wildlife and Fisheries Division
Lands Bureau
Legal Unit
Strategic Planning & Data Services
Montana Natural Heritage Program

6.3 Duration of Comment Period

The public comment period will extend for thirty (30) days beginning February 8, 2016. Written comments will be accepted until 5:00 p.m. on March 8, 2016. (Please note that this deadline is an extension of the deadline, March 7, listed in the newspaper legal notices, in order to compensate for the EA not being posted on FWP's website until March 8.)

Comments may be made online on the EA's webpage, mailed to the FWP address below, or emailed to Sharon Rose at shrose@mt.gov :

MT FWP Region 2
Attn: Threemile WMA Addition
3201 Spurgin Road
Missoula, MT 59804

For questions about the project, please contact Rebecca Mowry by email at RMowry@mt.gov or by phone at 406-363-7141.

6.4 Anticipated Timeline of Events

Submission of Project to the FWP Commission	April 2016
Submission of Project to the Montana Land Board	April 2016
Closing, if approved	May 2016

7.0 EA PREPARATION

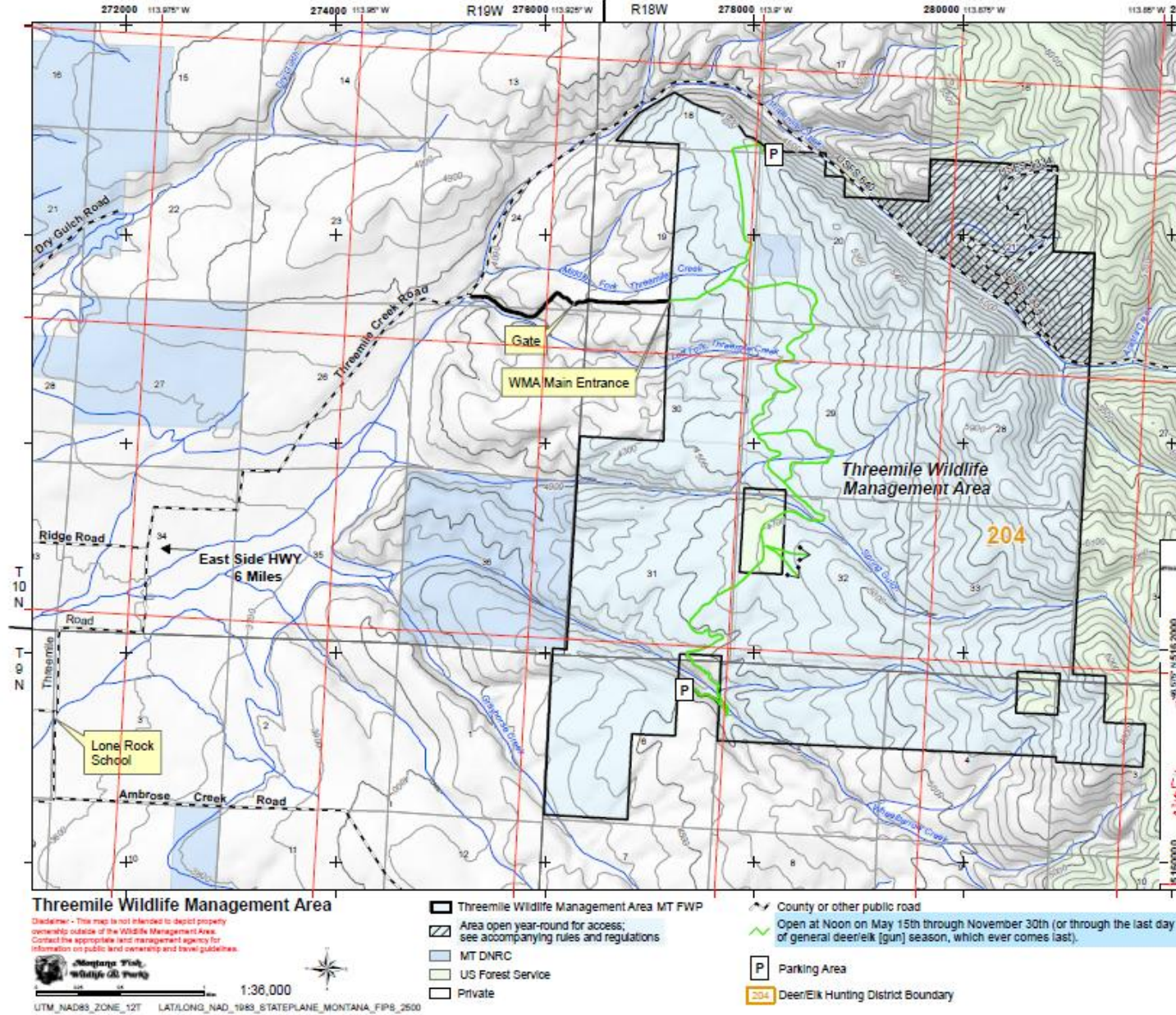
Rebecca Mowry, FWP Wildlife Biologist, Hamilton, MT
Chris Clancy, FWP Fisheries Biologist, Hamilton, MT
Jason Parke, FWP Forester, Helena, MT
Mike Thompson, FWP Regional Wildlife Manager, Missoula, MT
Candice Durran, FWP Land Agent, Helena, MT
David Dziak, FWP Wildlife Management Areas Manager, Warm Springs, MT
Kristi DuBois, FWP Wildlife Biologist, Missoula, MT
Sharon Rose, FWP Administrative Assistant, Missoula, MT

APPENDICES

Appendix A: Summary of Current Recreational Use Rules on Threemile WMA (TWMA)
Appendix B: Proposed Integrated Pest Management Plan for Antrim Addition

APPENDIX A:
Summary of Current Recreational Use Rules on Threemile WMA (TWMA)
Region 2 FWP, 3201 Spurgin Rd., Missoula, MT 59804
Phone 406-542-5500

1. Threemile Wildlife Management Area (TWMA) is open annually to public access and use from 12 noon on May 15 through December 1. TWMA is closed annually to all public entry (including hunting and fishing) from December 2 until noon on May 15, to provide undisturbed access for elk and deer to critical winter habitat.
 - *Exception:* The area north of, and including, US Forest Service (USFS) Road 640 in northeastern TWMA is open year-round to public access, but motorized travel is allowed only on open roads (USFS Roads 640 and 1334). However, this area is still closed to all hunting and fishing (during the overall TWMA winter closure) from December 2 until 12 noon May 15.
2. During open period/s, hiking and horseback riding are allowed anywhere on TWMA, and nonmotorized mountain bicycling is allowed on roads and trails.
3. Motorized vehicles are restricted to the designated open-road system (no motorized vehicles off roads or on closed roads; see accompanying map). Gates--Do not park in such a way as to block gates (whether they are open or closed). Do not park along roads in such a way as to block motorized or nonmotorized travel.
4. **SPECIAL MOTORIZED VEHICLE RESTRICTION**—The Operation of conventional passenger vehicles which are greater than 50 inches in width and which meet the requirements of appropriate State law for registration and licensing (in order to travel on public highways) is allowed on TWMA. But, the operation of any motorized vehicles 50 inches or less in width is prohibited on TWMA; this includes (but is not limited to) 2-, 3- and 4-wheeled ATVs, motorcycles, trail bikes and snowmobiles. Exception: Motorized vehicle traffic is not restricted on USFS Roads 640 and 1334, which pass through the northeast corner of TWMA.
5. Camping is allowed (motorized vehicles restricted to the road shoulder or pullouts). Camping stay limit is 14 days during any 30-day period.
6. No firewood cutting. Open campfires are allowed. All campfires must be dead out before you leave. Only downed wood (i.e., dead wood on the ground) may be gathered for on-site campfires. No firewood or wood may be removed from TWMA.
7. Permits are required for groups of more than 30 people; contact Region 2 FWP.
8. Pack-in, pack-out all garbage and litter.
9. Hunting is in accordance with regulations pertaining statewide and to Deer/Elk/Lion Hunting District (HD) 204, Black Bear Management Unit (BMU) 216, and Wolf Management Unit (WMU) 250.
10. Due to the winter closure, the WMA is closed to the winter and the Region 2 late winter seasons for mountain lion hunting, and TWMA will not open for spring black bear hunting until noon on May 15. Also due to the winter closure, spring turkey hunting does not open until noon May 15 (assuming a particular spring turkey season is open through or past May 15).
11. Trapping furbearers on the TWMA may be allowed, by FWP permit only; contact Region 2 FWP.
12. Outfitting is prohibited within the WMA.
13. Commercial activities are prohibited, except as authorized by permit, as specified by FWP's commercial use policy.



APPENDIX B:
Proposed Integrated Pest Management Plan for Antrim Addition to Threemile Wildlife Management Area

January 12, 2016

Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks (FWP) proposes to accept the donation of fee-title ownership of approximately 215 acres (Antrim Addition) adjoining Threemile Wildlife Management Area (WMA) in Ravalli County, northeast of Stevensville. Threemile WMA was acquired by FWP for elk winter range in 1967, and currently consists of 6,169 acres. The proposed Antrim Addition shares 1 mile of common boundary with the WMA and 0.9 miles of common boundary with a United States Forest Service parcel adjacent to the WMA (Figures 1 and 2). This donation is offered according to the last will and testament of Ms. Priscilla Antrim, the late owner of the subject parcel.

FWP is committed to an Integrated Pest Management (IPM) approach in its weed management on this property. FWP has been pro-active in the use of an IPM plan throughout Region 2 and statewide in Montana. In compliance with 7-22-2151, MCA the Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks is required by state statute to develop a noxious weed management plan and to have the plan approved by county weed boards as well as providing a biennial report on weed management activities.

FWP will survey the proposed donation with Ravalli County Noxious Weed Supervisor in the spring of 2016 to assess the property for noxious weed infestations. Because of current noxious weed treatments occurring on the WMA, FWP expects to find Spotted Knapweed and Canada thistle present, as well and to a lesser degree Yellow Toadflax and potentially Leafy Spurge. Listed below are herbicides that either FWP or FWP's contracted herbicide applicators will use in management of these noxious weeds:

- **Spotted Knapweed** – for roadside and upland treatments. Tordon 22K® @ 1 pint – 1 quart/ per acre.
- Or
- Milestone® @ 6 ounces/ per acre for use along riparian habitats and upland treatments.
- **Canada thistle** – for roadside, upland, and riparian habitat treatments. Milestone® @ 6 ounces/ per acre.
- **Yellow Toadflax** – for roadside and upland treatments. Telar®XP @ 1.5 ounces – 2 ounces/ per acre.
- Or
- Escort®XP @ 1.5 ounces – 2 ounces/ per acre.
- **Leafy Spurge** – for roadside and upland treatments. Tordon 22K® @ 2 pints – 1 quart/ per acre.

Both FWP and its contractors will use the proper chemical products and the required rate of application in compliance of all label directions. FWP and its contractors will also use newly introduced products as they become available. FWP may also hand-pull, bag and properly dispose Spotted Knapweed where applicable.

FWP will also use biological control insects for weed control because of risk of injury to native forbs and other plants. The following biological control insects will be released to their respective weed species:

- **Spotted Knapweed** – *Larinus* seed head weevil and *Cyphocleonus* root weevil.
- **Leafy Spurge** – *Aphthona* mix: *A.nigriscutis* and *A.lacertosa* root and foliage.
- **Yellow Toadflax** – *Mecinus janthinus* stem mining weevil.

FWP and its contractors will annually map all treated sites within the boundary of the Antrim Addition and record whether the sites were chemically, biologically or treated otherwise. This will also include rate of chemical application and or number of biological controls agents released.

As with all FWP lands located in Region 2 in Montana, this property will be weed managed in accordance with the Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks, Statewide Weed Management Plan (June 2008) and the Ravalli County Weed Management Agreement. Also there will be no major construction projects on this site as the goal of this property is to maintain undisturbed open space.